

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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APPROVED BY EB/FTD:MBSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORP PLANS TO PUSH WOOL IN US

REF: FAS REPORT 23-AL DATED 12/19/74

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. PLANS OF AWC REFERENCED REPORT FOR QUOTE ALL OUT ATTACK
UNQUOTE US WOOL MARKET VERY DISTURBING. WOOL APPAREL,
PARTICULARLY SUITS, EXTREMELY SENSITIVE CATEGORY OF TEXTILE
IMPORTS. FYI THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE NOW WITH UNEMPLOYMENT
IN APPAREL SECTOR IN US AT 17.4 PERCENT, COMPARED WITH
OVERALL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 8.2 PERCENT (JANUARY
FIGURES). END FYI.

2. US IMPORTS OF WOOL SUITS HAVE BEEN INCREASING IN
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RECENT YEARS, GOING FROM 528,823 SUITS IN 1972 TO 828,344

SUITS IN 1974, UP 57 PERCENT. AT THE SAME TIME, US DOMESTIC PRODUCTION HAS BEEN DROPPING, GOING FROM 3,681,000 IN 1972 TO AN ESTIMATED 2,400,000 IN 1974, DOWN 34 PERCENT.

3. ASPECT OF AUSTRALIAN SCHEME TO UTILIZE LOW COST LABOR IN SOUTH EAST ASIA IN PARTICULAR WOULD CAUSE US PROBLEMS, WHETHER VEHICLE WOULD BE TO CONSTRUCT SUBSTANTIALLY SUITS IN THIRD COUNTRY AND THEN ROUTE THROUGH AUSTRALIA FOR FINAL FINISHING BEFORE SHIPMENT TO US, OR TO SHIP DIRECTLY FROM THIRD COUNTRY TO US. WE FEEL THIS WOULD BE SUBVERSION OF MFA, IN PARTICULAR ARTICLES 8 AND 9, WHICH WE COULD NOT

TOLERATE. ALSO, MOST SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES HAVING LOW COST LABOR ARE UNDER BILATERAL TEXTILE RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WITH US, INCLUDING WOOL APPAREL.

4. ABOVE POINTS MADE INFORMALLY TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REITERATE THESE POINTS ON THIS SUBJECT AT APPROPRIATE GOA LEVELS AND REPORT THEIR COMMENTS. INGERSOLL

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